

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-16 and 18-26 (canceled).

17. (withdrawn) A method of treatment of hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis, as well as other diseases or conditions in which HMG-CoA reductase is implicated comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.
27. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for sustained release comprising as active ingredient pitavastatin, wherein the composition comprises : (1) an inner phase comprising 10-20% by weight of the composition pitavastatin, 20-50% by weight of the composition microcrystalline cellulose, 1-5% by weight of the composition stabilizer; and (2) an outer phase comprising 15-40% by weight of the composition matrix former and 0.1-2% by weight of the composition flow agent.
28. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the matrix former is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, hydrophilic polymers such as hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.
29. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the matrix former is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.
30. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is potassium bicarbonate or magnesium aluminium metasilicate.
31. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the flow agent is silicium dioxide colloidal.
32. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for sustained release comprising as active ingredient pitavastatin, wherein the composition comprises : (1) an inner phase comprising 10.45% by weight of the composition pitavastatin, 44.8% by weight of the composition microcrystalline cellulose, and 1.25% by weight of the composition potassium bicarbonate; and (2) an outer phase comprising 18.75% by weight of the composition hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and 0.5% by weight of the composition silicium dioxide colloidal.